

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 USSS-00 SAM-01 ACDA-10 /111 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 058214

R 202258Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USCINCEU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 20, 1975:

MR. TRATTNER: I UNDERSTAND THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY MAY
ORGANIZE A CHARTER PLANE FOR THE PRESS TO ACCOMPANY
PRESIDENT SADAT ON HIS STATE VISIT HERE. ANYONE THAT'S
INTERESTED IN THAT SHOULD CONTACT THE PRESS SECTION OF
THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHERE SADAT IS GOING, APART FROM
WASHINGTON?

A. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL ARRIVE IN
WILLIAMSBURG ON OCTOBER 26TH, THAT HE WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON OCTOBER 27 AND 28. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING
BEYOND THAT. THEY HAVE NOT ANNOUNCED ANYTHING.

Q. SO ITS A CHARTER PLANE TO -- NOBODY KNOWS WHERE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US OFF THE RECORD WHERE HE'S GOING?
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A. I'M UNABLE TO DO THAT.

Q. WELL, THERE'S NO POINT EVEN IN -- WHAT CAN YOU TELL
YOUR EDITORS?

A. WELL, AS I SAY, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE PRESS
SECTION OF THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT TODAY IN HA'ARETZ, I THINK THAT AMBASSADOR TOON WARNED ISRAEL NOT TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A. WELL, THE SITUATION IN LEBANON IS VERY DELICATE. I THINK THE LESS SAID FROM THE OUTSIDE OF THAT SITUATION THE BETTER. I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON STORIES IN THE PRESS OF THE KIND THAT YOU MENTIONED.

Q. WELL, YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION.

A. IN ANY CASE, YOU KNOW THAT AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE WE DON'T GET INTO DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

I'D LIKE TO SAY IN GENERAL--I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER THE SECRETARY'S MEETING RECENTLY IN NEW YORK WITH THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER--THAT LEBANON IS ONE OF OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN ITS CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION.

Q. TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU WANT US TO BE AWARE OF THAT STATEMENT TODAY--WHY THAT WAS PLUCKED FROM THE FILE--THAT SEEMS TO REINFORCE THE REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR TOON HAS TOLD ISRAEL TO STAY OUT OF LEBANON. OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE KIND OF A GRATUITOUS REMINDER TO US.

Q. WE'RE AWARE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID ON MANY SUBJECTS, BUT WHY TELL US ABOUT THAT TODAY?
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A. WELL, I'M GLAD YOU ARE AWARE OF IT, BARRY. I WAS NOT REMINDING YOU OF WHAT THE SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER THAT MEETING WITH TAKLA, IN DIRECT ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ABOUT LEBANON, BUT JUST AS A STATEMENT OF OUR GENERAL

POLICY ON THE LEBANON SITUATION AT THE MOMENT.

Q. WELL, IN A GENERAL WAY, DOES THAT APPLY TO SYRIA AS WELL AS TO ISRAEL?

A. I WOULD JUST LEAVE IT WHERE I PUT IT, BARRY.

Q. HAS ANYBODY TOLD SYRIA TO KEEP ITS HANDS OFF LEBANON THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q. EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T NORMALLY COMMENT ON EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS?

A. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION. AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, NO.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES REGARD A THREAT TO THE CONTINUING INTEGRITY AND TERRITORIAL -- WHATEVER IT WAS -- OF LEBANON AS A THREAT TO ISRAEL AS WELL?

A. I JUST CANT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THAT SORT OF THING. I SAID THAT WE WOULD REGARD -- THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION OF LEBANON.

Q. WELL, ONCE UPON A TIME THE SPECIAL INTEREST WENT SO FAR THAT WE SENT MARINES TO LEBANON. WOULD YOU BE IN THE MOOD TO HAVE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE IF --

A. I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT JUST WHERE I HAVE LEFT IT.

Q. APART FROM WHAT TOON MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SAID, WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S IMPRESSION AS TO THE PROSPECTS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR EITHER ISRAELI OR SYRIAN INTERVENTION INTO LEBANON? DO WE THINK THERE'S A REAL POSSIBILITY OF THAT?

A. ONCE AGAIN, I'M JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THAT HERE.

Q. HAS ANYBODY ELSE, APART FROM THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM, BEEN REMINDED OF THIS U.S. POSITION ON LEBANON'S CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SO ON?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID HERE FROM THIS PLATFORM. BUT, IN ANY CASE, I WOULD NOT WANT TO GET INTO WHAT WE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE DONE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. I MEAN, ARE YOU ASKING US TO CARRY MESSAGES FOR YOU BY VOLUNTEERING THIS STATEMENT?

A. I'M ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q. THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THAT. YOU'VE

REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHAT MR. TOON MIGHT HAVE SAID, AND
THEN YOU VOLUNTEERED A STATEMENT ABOUT LEBANON'S
INTEGRITY. THE QUESTION WAS ABOUT: HAS ISRAEL BEEN TOLD
NOT TO INTERFERE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS?

A. FIRST OF ALL, I DID NOT VOLUNTEER THE STATEMENT. I
REMINDED YOU OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE SPOKESMAN
AFTER THE MEETING IN NEW YORK -- AND AGAIN, AS A GENERAL
STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY ON LEBANON, NOT IN ANSWER TO
YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR TOON.

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